



April 30, 2026
NPC File No. 151051

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Graydon Kowal

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By email: gkowal@guardianex.com

Dear Calvin Ehloak, Richard Dwyer, Tracey McCaie, Luis Manzo, and Graydon Kowal:

RE: RE: NPC File # 151051 [ESKER]

The following works and activities have been proposed in the above-noted project proposal:

1. **Primary Land Use:** Mineral Exploration
2. **Project summary description:** Undertake a small-scale, early-stage gold exploration program on Inuit-owned land (surface rights) east of South Henik Lake, approximately 170 km WNW of Arviat, Nunavut. The program will include ground-based prospecting and sampling, geological mapping, low-impact drone geophysical surveys, and ground IP geophysical surveying.
3. **Summary of modifications:** The project plans include diamond drilling with a camp, which is being proposed with two locations. Increase to 1,440 person-days on site.
4. **Associated NPC File No.:** 150859; **/Associated NIRB File No.:** N/A; **NWB File Nos.:** N/A
5. **Location:** Kivalliq [exploration sites approximately 170 km NW of Arviat]

A complete description of the project proposal reviewed by the NPC can be accessed online using the link below.

The Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) has completed its review of the above-noted project proposal. The NPC previously reviewed works and activities associated with the current proposal (conformity determination issued June 20, 2025). This conformity determination still applies.

The NPC has determined that the above-noted project proposal is a significant modification to the project because of the increased intensity of exploration activities and camp use. It conforms to the Keewatin Regional Land Use Plan (KRLUP). The proponent has undertaken to comply with the applicable conformity requirements of Appendix C, G, and H of the KRLUP.

The project proposal requires screening by the Nunavut Impact Review Board (NIRB) because it does not belong to a class of exempt works or activities set out in Schedule 12-1 of the Nunavut Agreement.

By way of this letter, the NPC is forwarding the project proposal with this determination to the NIRB for screening. Project materials, including the applicable conformity requirements, are available at the following address:

<https://lupit.nunavut.ca/portal/registry/registry.aspx?appid=151051>

The regulatory authorities to which this letter is addressed are responsible under the *Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA)* to implement any of the applicable requirements by incorporating the requirements directly, or otherwise ensuring that they must be met, in the terms and conditions of any authorizations issued.

This conformity determination applies only to the above noted project proposal as submitted. Proponents may not carry out projects and regulatory authorities may not issue licenses, permits and other authorizations in respect of projects if a review by the NPC is required. Regulatory authorities may consult with the NPC to obtain recommendations on their duties to implement the existing land use plans prior to issuing licenses, permits and other authorizations under subsection 69(6) of the *NuPPAA*.

My office would be pleased to discuss how best to implement the applicable requirements and to review any draft authorizations that regulatory authorities wish to provide for that purpose. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 979-3444.

Sincerely,



Solomon Amuno, PhD
Senior Planner
Nunavut Planning Commission

Jurisdictional Note:

This conformity determination applies only to the components of the proposed project located within the Nunavut Settlement Area and under the Nunavut Planning Commission's statutory jurisdiction as defined in the Nunavut Agreement and the Nunavut Planning and Project Assessment Act (NuPPAA). Activities outside the NPC's jurisdiction remain subject to the review and regulatory processes of the relevant authorities. Proponents are responsible for identifying, contacting, and obtaining all required approvals from the appropriate regulators in every applicable jurisdiction to ensure compliance with all legislation, policies, and licensing requirements.